

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EB/OT/STA:WCLARK, JR.:JH

APPROVED BY: EB/OT/STA:WCLARK, JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 002645

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 002645 ACTION ANKARA 6 JANUARY.

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 002645

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TU

SUBJECT: U.S. FILBERT STANDARDS LEGISLATION

REF: STATE 281295

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASE DATED
JANUARY 4 ANNOUNCING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO
WITHHOLD HIS APPROVAL OF THE FILBERT STANDARDS LEGISLATION:

BEGIN TEXT: I AM WITHHOLDING MY APPROVAL FROM H.R. 2933, A
BILL WHICH WOULD AMEND THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AGREE-
MENT ACT TO MAKE EXISTING GRADE AND QUALITY RESTRICTIONS ON
CERTAIN IMPORTED COMMODITIES APPLICABLE TO IMPORTED
FILBERTS.

IN MY JUDGMENT, THE BILL WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THE AMERICAN
CONSUMER AND THE AMERICAN FARMER, AS WELL AS PREJUDICIAL
TO THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN TRADE POLICY.

H.R. 2933 WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THE CONSUMER BECAUSE IT COULD
UNNECESSARILY INCREASE PRICES FOR FILBERT PRODUCTS. EXIST-
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ING LAW ALREADY REQUIRES ALL IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS TO MEET

HEALTH STANDARDS PRESCRIBED UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUG ACT.

THE BILL COULD ALSO PRODUCE UNFAIR CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FARMER BY CAUSING THE LOSS OF SOME OF HIS IMPORTANT MARKETS ABROAD. IT COULD RESULT AT BEST IN COMPARATIVELY

LIMITED BENEFITS FOR DOMESTIC PRODUCERS WHILE RISKING RETALIATION FROM ABROAD AGAINST THE LARGER VOLUME OF OTHER PRODUCTS EXPORTED BY OUR FARMERS.

FINALLY, THE BILL WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO OUR TRADE POLICY BECAUSE IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENTS ON TARIFFS AND TRADE. IT WOULD ERECT A NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIER AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE TRYING TO PERSUADE OTHER NATIONS TO DISMANTLE THEIRS.

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OTHER COMMODITIES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO THE SAME STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS THAT H.R. 2933 WOULD IMPOSE ON FILBERTS, NO NEW COMMODITIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THAT LIST SINCE JANUARY OF 1971. I CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE SUPPORT THE ADDITION OF A NEW COMMODITY JUST AFTER SIGNING INTO LAW THE NEW TRADE ACT WHICH HAS A MAJOR AIM OF ELIMINATING NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIERS.

FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS, I AM COMPELLED TO WITHHOLD MY APPROVAL FROM H.R. 2933. END TEXT. KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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